MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 APRIL 1982

Sharon Visit

Heading a delegation which included Chief of Military Intelligence Maj Gen Yehoshu'a Sagi, Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon visited Egypt for several hours on 15 April, meeting twice with Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and other officials and once with President Husni Mubarak, MENA reported.

The various problems raised in Israel in the last few days were discussed "frankly" and all points were answered, 'Ali stated at a joint press conference reported by MENA. The two states are "determined to implement the treaty in good will," he said and expressed certainty that various details concerning Tabah will be agreed upon during further talks.

'Ali said the two states agreed on three principles: 1) The Israelis will withdraw to the lines proposed by Egypt; 2) the Egyptian authorities will advance to the lines proposed by Israel; 3) Article seven of the peace treaty calling for arbitration will be applied. However, according to AL-AHRAM's account reported later by MENA, these three principles define the Egyptian position only. Egypt also proposed that a joint committee "consider the status of the disputed area until the dispute is submitted to arbitration," and that in the meantime the establishment of installations be prohibited, AL-AHRAM continued. Egypt rejected an Israeli proposal that a joint committee administer the disputed Tabah area until another committee, which would negotiate the differences, ended its work. Instead, Egypt submitted ideas based on the three principles outlined by 'Ali at the press conference, AL-AHRAM added.

Concerning alleged violations in Zone A involving increases in the number of forces and weapons, the sides agreed that the matter be investigated on 17 April by the U.S. early warning station in the Sinai, AL-AHRAM reported. With regard to the smuggling of weapons, Egypt stated that it is fulfilling its commitments out of concern for its security and implementation of the treaty and that it allows no weapons smuggling into or out of Egypt, the paper said.

According to Jerusalem radio, in his talks with Sharon the Egyptian president denied that his country is giving operational assistance to the terrorists and emphasized his awareness that the terrorist organizations are seeking to destroy the peace process. Mubarak also said that neither he nor 'Ali had checked in advance the Egyptian delegate's remarks on the Palestinian problem at the nonaligned meeting in Kuwait, and he expressed several times his "deep commitment" to the peace treaty and the Camp David process, the radio reported. President Mubarak also protested what he called "harmful remarks" made by Israeli ministers which add nothing to the atmosphere of trust, Jerusalem television revealed.

After reporting to Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin in Jerusalem, Sharon told the television that a senior Egyptian Army officer would arrive in Israel on 16 April to deal with Israeli complaints about cooperation between Egypt and the terrorist organizations and about arms smuggling from Egypt into the Gaza Strip. Sharon added that Egypt undertook to correct within a few days all violations of the military annex to the peace treaty as outlined on a map which he presented during the talks. With regard to the border demarcation, Sharon said no agreement had been reached and that 'Ali will arrive in Israel early next week to continue talks on the matter.

Egypt

Israel Week Cancellation -- Israel Week events scheduled for next month have been canceled, Jerusalem radio reported. The management of the Cairo Hilton Hotel, proposed venue for the events, announced that it had not received the necessary permits from the government, the radio added.

Execution Announcement -- At 1617 GMT on 15 April MENA announced that the persons convicted of assassinating the departed leader Anwar as-Sadat were executed.

New Air Force Commander -- President Mubarak appointed Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Hamid Hilmi air force commander, replacing Maj Gen Muhammad Lutfi Shabanah, who was appointed ambassador at the Foreign Ministry, MENA reported.

Israel

Begin Condemnation -- The prime minister's office issued an announcement vigorously condemning the convening of the UN Security Council to discuss the Temple Mount incident, Jerusalem radio reported. A "human tragedy" has been exploited to convene a session in which "terrible accusations" are being hurled against Israel, the announcement stated.

Shooting Inquiry -- It emerges from the police investigation of the Temple Mount shooting incident that only the guard at the Dome of the Rock Mosque was killed by Alan Goodman, according to Jerusalem radio. The second fatality was caused after Goodman was already under arrest, the radio added. Police investigators complained that east Jerusalem hospitals to which the wounded were taken are "systematically" destroying the bullets and bullet fragments and that when investigators came to one of the hospitals, their vehicle was stoned, the radio reported.

East Jerusalem, Gaza Situation -- A protest rally organized by the Supreme Muslim Council and trade unions in east Jerusalem has called for establishing an independent Palestinian state under PLO leadership, Jerusalem radio reported. The number of incidents in the Gaza Strip dropped drastically on 15 April, but serious riots did take place, ITIM reported.

Lebanon

Violations of the cease-fire proclaimed on the morning of 15 April occurred throughout the day and on the morning of 16 April, according to Beirut radio reports. Nine people were injured in clashes between the Amal movement and the Palestinians near the Burj al-Baranjinah area of Beirut, Voice of Lebanon reported.

The Palestinians and the joint forces attacked the 'Adlun and Lubyah areas in the south, forcing the inhabitants to evacuate and causing heavy losses in property, the Voice of Lebanon claimed. The Amal movement is trying to recover 'Adlun from Fatah forces assisted by Palestine Liberation Army detachments, the radio said citing security sources.

Appealing to all parties to exercise self-restraint, the Palestinian Revolution Command called for a meeting of all sides within the framework of the Higher Coordination Committee in order to reach a solution and restore unity, according to the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio.

Iran

Islamic combatants killed 60 insurgents, wounded 40 others, destroyed 4 counterrevolutionary headquarters and forced the insurgents and counterrevolutionaries to retreat several km from the Baneh-Sar Dasht and Mahabad-Sar Dasht axes, a revolution guards statement broadcast by Tehran radio announced. On the same day, over 25 insurgents were killed by Iranian forces in some villages of West Azarbayjan, IRNA reported. Meanwhile, the Friday imam of Rasht and seven worshipers were wounded when a bomb exploded in one of the city's mosques, according to Tehran radio.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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CORDOVEZ CONCLUDES TALKS IN KABUL, DEPARTS

LD151640 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] At 1000 this morning Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, received the envoy to the UN secretary general, Diego Cordovez, at the Revolutionary Council headquarters. Shah Mohammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs, was present on the occasion.

The UN secretary general's envoy spoke about his mission in the region during the meeting.

On the peaceful policy of the DRA, Babrak Karmal stated: As it was emphasized several times on previous occasions, the DRA truly desires a political solution to the situations involving Afghanistan. In this regard the DRA proposals of 14 May 1980 and 24 August 1981 are well known to all. The DRA looks with appreciation to the efforts of the UN secretary general and his representative, Diego Cordovez, concerning the search for a solution by means of dialogue between the interested countries, that is, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran.

We believe that the most beneficial way to treat this complex issue will be direct talks between the governments concerned. But it looks like the other side is still not prepared for direct talks, and instead proposes complex and nonbeneficial ways which fall short of the main goal.

Despite this the DRA will continue its efforts toward consolidating a spirit of good will and good relations with its neighbors, pursuing [word indistinct] the solution of all issues in the region and the settlement of present problems for consolidating peace and in reaching an all-round and lasting peace.

Similarly, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, met this morning at 1130 with Diego Cordovez, envoy to the UN secretary general. They talked about his good-will mission.

According to another report the UN secretary general's envoy left Kabul for Islamabad this afternoon.

He was seen off at Kabul Airport by: The deputy minister of foreign affairs, Sakhi Daneshjo; the director of United Nations and international relations [of the Foreign Ministry]; the director of information and publicity and a representative of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

TRADE COOPERATION DISCUSSED WITH CSSR DELEGATION

LD152300 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] A delegation from the friendly country of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia recently arrived in Kabul to hold preliminary talks concerning the formation of a joint DRA-CSSR commission in the areas of commerce, economics and technical cooperation. The delegation has held talks with the responsible officials of the State Planning Committee and the Ministry of Commerce concerning the joint commission on economic, trade, educational and technical cooperation and the (?consolidation) of commerce and [word indistinct].

According to another report, an agreement on commercial (?payments) between the two countries was signed this morning by the head of foreign trade at the DRA Ministry of Commerce, and by the head of the department of foreign trade at the CSSR Ministry of Foreign Trade.

Similarly, the joint commission (?policy) was signed by the (?representative) of the DRA State Planning Committee and by the head of the CSSR's commercial department in the Ministry of Foreign Trade. A trade, economic and technical cooperation commission will be established later between the two countries [words indistinct].

MINISTERS, KABUL MAYOR MEET WITH SOVIET OFFICIAL

LD152230 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] Engineer Nazar Mohammad, minister of public works, held talks with a high-ranking Soviet delegation concerning educational and technical cooperation between the two sides.

Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the State Planning Committee and a number of managers and experts from the Ministry of Public Works were also present at the meeting.

According to another report, the delegation met with the mayor of Kabul, Engineer Adina Sangin, who familiarized them with Kabul city.

KESHTMAND SPEARS AT DYOA PLENUM ON YOUTHS' ROLE

LD160640 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Excerpts] The Fourth Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan [DYOA] Central Committee Plenum concerning the results of the PDPA national conference and the tasks of committees and organizations of the democratic youth of Afghanistan toward the realization of its resolutions and subjects related to that organization opened today.

The plenum, which was opened in the hall of the Amani school, was attended by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; some party Central Committee members who are also members of the Council of Ministers; members of the Central Committee and secretaries; heads of departments of the organization and financial provincial committees; youths in charge in the armed forces; state information services [KHAD] and sarandoy members and party activists of the Kabul city DYOA.

At the end of the positive statements, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand assessed the work of the plenum as successful and handed over honorary DYOA Central Committee banners to persons in charge of the committees.

Making a statement before the distribution of the banners, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand said: The Fourth Plenum of the DYOA Central Committee is being held at a time when the toilers of our country are preparing for the celebration of the fourth anniversary of the April Revolution. The youths play an important role in preparing for this great revolutionary festival of the country. At the present time in our revolutionary homeland the youths are the throbbing heart of our revolution. Our party looks with respect and gratitude at the thriving role of the sensitive and courageous youths of the homeland who defended with self-sacrifice and courage the gains of the April Revolution and have created epics.

Describing the role of youth in various areas of the economic, social, cultural and military life of our society and also explaining the successful completion of the party national conference and the results of its work -- the action plan -- Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand said: Great and various tasks are before the new generation of our country. Among these tasks one of the major duties of youth is the new education, the learning of theory and practice of the process of current revolutionary life in our country. The youths of our country, by learning progressive knowledge, and based on the new knowledge and awareness, will be able to play an effective role in revolutionary changes.

Pointing out the profound attention of the party Central Committee to the education and training of youths in the country with a militant and revolutionary spirit, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand said: Under the present circumstances and conditions, one of the major tasks of youths, on the side of all patriotic and progressive forces of the country, is the struggle against armed counterrevolutionaries and defending the gains of the April Revolution. The fate of the Afghan toilers and the militant youths of the country has an unbreakable link with the fate of the revolution. The youths in the sacred and just struggle against the enemies of the revolution against the enemies of the people and homeland through joining the ranks of the armed forces, including the army, sarandoy, KHAD and the revolution defense groups and (?the gathering of defenders), ought to be increased. The PDPA grants much importance and hope to the role of the DYOA in the consolidation of ranks of the armed forces and the enhancement of combat readiness of the officers and men.

Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand said: The youth of our country, whose outstanding characteristic is taken in work, initiatives in practice and hard work, will be able to take an active part in solving the economic problems in the country. At this moment the major part of the working class is composed of youths. We have many examples of young, proud and militant workers in our economic institutions. Measures will be taken to increase the number of such workers.

Recalling the great tasks in the area of control and the implementation of the socioeconomic development plan of 21 March 1982 and in the area of implementing the evolutionary phase of land and water reform in the country which has been entrusted to party organizations and local organs, the chairman of the Council of Ministers added: The DYOA is an active aid and reliable asset to the PDPA. The PDPA Central Committee lays great importance on the role of the DYOA in the fulfillment of party ranks and hopes this organization will be transformed into a militant and active party aide and a militant shcool and reliable learning place of youth so the new generation in Afghanistan will be brought up and trained with loyalty to the revolution, and with a lofty feeling of patriotic and progressive pride and lofty ideals of the revolution, rallying around the PDPA.

The chairman of the Council of Ministers said: A great part of our youths now pass the best and fruitful days of their lives in the bastion of revolutionary struggle for a bright future of the toiling man of our country. They bring about the most beautiful epics of contemporary history in revolutionary Afghanistan. The enemy is frightened of your heroic and courageous fight; you are the best fighters of the path of revolution; you constitute the great force in our society. Consolidate further and strengthen your ranks to defend the revolution and revolutionary gains of people and struggle against counterrevolutionaries still further.

REBELS 'CRUSHED' IN FARYAB, BAGHLAN PROVINCES

LD120746 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 12 Apr 82

[Text] Kabul, 11 Apr (BAKHTAR) -- Several counterrevolutionary bands have recently been crushed in Kuh-e Sayyad District and Almar Sub-district of Faryab Province and Sheykh Jalal village in Baghlan Province by the defenders of the revolutionary and the security forces.

Their ringleaders were captured and arrested.

The security forces have recovered a large quantity of assorted weapons, bullets and printed materials from them.

RAO ON GULF WAR MEDIATION, FALKLAND DISPUTE

BK151621 Hong Kong AFP in English 1533 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] New Delhi, 15 April (AFP) -- Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao said today that the nonaligned ministerial committee on the Gulf war still had hopes of making progress to end the 19-month-old conflict between Iraq and Iran.

Answering questions in Parliament, he said that the numerous meetings already held by the committee on the Gulf war disproved any suggestion of its "flagging spirit."

Mr Rao said that the forthcoming nonaligned summit in Baghdad "is on" in accordance with the decision taken at the previous gathering in Havana. He did not mention Iranian opposition to the summit being held in the Iraqi capital.

Asked if the Iranian attitude had hardened after its recent battlefield successes and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's offer to withdraw his troops with a guarantee of territorial integrity, Mr Rao said it would be wrong to base nonaligned efforts on who was winning at the moment.

He said any victories by one side could either produce a harder attitude or a softening toward a "magnanimous approach" which the nonaligned committee was trying to foster.

Mr Rao declined to divulge details of the proposals made by the committee on the fighting, saying it was a sensitive matter and had to be discussed elsewhere.

He ruled out any solo effort by India to mediate between the two warring countries.

In another matter, Mr Rao said that India supported Argentina's claims on Falkland Islands, but wanted to see a peaceful solution to the crisis.

"We do not like the use of force even for a right cause," he said in an interview with some Japanese correspondents on the eve of his official visit to Tokyo.

Mr Rao also said there was no impasse in the Indo-Pakistan dialogue on a non-war pact. He said the discussions had been postponed for the "time being" because the "atmosphere is not quite as it ought to be."

LATEST DISPUTE WITH PAKISTAN OVER KASHMIR VIEWED

BK151203 Hong Kong AFP in English 1059 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Excerpt] New Delhi, April 15 (AFP) -- The diplomatic row between India and Pakistan on the status of three strategic areas in the northern Kashmir region continued unabated today with New Delhi reiterating that the territories were "constitutionally and juridicially" part of India.

The lid on the controversial issue blew off yesterday with the publication here of an interview given by Pakistani President Gen Ziaul Haq to an Indian journalist stating that the areas of Gilgit, Hunza and Shardu were part of Pakistan and were not disputed.

Irdia maintains that the areas are part of the state of Kashmir, claimed by New Delhi.

Indian Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao told the lower house of the Parliament today that his government had lodged a "serious objection" and expressed "serious concern" to Islamabad over the Pakistani claims.

Mr Rao's categoric statement closely followed an assertion by an Indian official spokesman here yesterday that India considered the territories part of its Jammu and Kashmir state.

"It is our well-known position that the areas mentioned (by the Pakistani president) are part of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, said Mr Rao. He added that he had asked Islamabad for an "authentic version of the Pakistani position on this question."

The Indo-Pakistani territorial dispute involves the entire 222,236-square-km northern state of Jammu and Kashmir, which borders India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

According to Indian claims and records, Pakistan is in "illegal occupation" of a 78,932-square-km area. The three territories fall under this area and are currently under Pakistani control. India also maintains that Pakistan had handed over another 5,180 square km to China under a bilateral boundary accord.

China is also accused of "occupying" a 37,555-square-km area which, India claims, originally was part of the Jammu and Kashmir state.

Independent observers said that though the present row may not effect the actual territorial position, it would adversely effect on-going diplomatic efforts between Islamabad and New Delhi to improve bilateral relations.

GANDHI OPENS ARMY COMMANDERS CONFERENCE

BK151605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] The prime minister has said defense and development are closely interlinked and one cannot undertake development while being vulnerable to outside threats. Addressing the opening session of the week-long army commanders conference in New Delhi today, Mrs Gandhi said the government is fully conscious to modernize the army and improve its firepower.

Mrs Gandhi asked the army to keep the global, political-economic context in mind while formulating its long-term plans. She underlined the need to absorb imported technology and develop it further to suit our future requirements.

Earlier, in his opening remarks Chief of the Army Staff Gen K.B. Krishna Rao said the army is fully prepared to meet threats to the country's security.

Defense Minister Venkataraman and Deputy Defense Minister K.P. Singh Deo were present at the conference.

AFP VIEWS MOUNTING TENSION IN PUNJAB STATE

BK150305 Hong Kong AFP in English 0219 GMT 15 Apr 82

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Text] New Delhi, 14 Apr (AFP) -- Tension building up in the strategic and affluent Indian state of Punjab, bordering Pakistan, could snowball into a serious problem for Prime Minister Indira Gandhi if her government cannot resolve differences with the Sikh community.

With the highest per capita income in the country, and a population of about 16 million that makes up the largest representation in the armed forces, Punjab is showing signs of defying Mrs Gandhi's federal government.

Last week talks between the state's Sikh leaders and Mrs Gandhi failed to sort out differences. This week a convention of Sikhs, attended by 8,000 delegates, including some from abroad, set August 15 as the deadline by which their demands for more political and financial autonomy, including a separate constitution for the state, had to be met.

A convention resolution said the Sikhs would continue their "struggle" for an autonomous "des Punjab" -- the concept of a Sikh homeland within the Indian union with greater state powers and a separate constitution, which was first conceived in 1973 at a similar convention. Today the Punjab is governed by the congress party.

The militant, turbaned Sikhs, the richest community in India, seem determined to go ahead with the agitation plan.

Known as the granary of India for its high output of wheat, rice and pulses, Punjab is bounded by Pakistan in the west, the disputed Jammu and Kashmir state in the north, and the Indian states of Himachal Pradesh, Harvana and Rajasthan in the south and east.

The literacy rate is 40.74 percent as against the national average of 36.17 percent.

Trouble started brewing in the Punjab last year when demands for the formation of a Sikh homeland called "Khalistan" were publicly aired.

Numerous clashes took place between Sikhs and Hindus, and tension increased last week with a federal decision that fixed the sharing of river water in Punjab. The affair came to a head this week at the Sikh convention organised by a faction of the Sikh political party called Akali Dal.

The apparently unimportant water dispute blew up into a major issue with Sikh political leaders denouncing the accord and threatening civil disobedience.

Sikhs were asked not to pay government taxes and there were threats of violence, to stop work on a 108 kilometre (67 miles) canal connecting the Sutlej and Yamuna Rivers.

The dispute over water sharing has a long history. In 1962 India paid Pakistan 1,000 million rupees, then worth about 166 million dollars, to secure exclusive rights to the waters of the Ravi and Beas Rivers.

Originally the Punjab enjoyed the unrestricted right to use the rivers' water. But in 1961 the Haryana state was carved out of the Punjab and got a share of the water. Under the accord signed last week, the desert states of Rajasthan [only name as received] were included in the sharing scheme.

Sikh leaders say Punjab has been deprived of its right to use the waters and fear the long-term possibility of drought.

A federal government spokesman here said, however, that Punjab would eventually benefit from the accord. Observers said the Sikh leaders were deliberately using the water agreement as a political weapon to stir up the Sikhs, who are primarily farmers.

This week's "Third World Sikh convention" in the holy city of Anandput Sahib, about 400 km (249 miles) north of here, took a controversial turn from the start because United States-based Ganga Singh Dhillon, a Khalistan movement activist, was refused entry to India on April 10.

The convention was seen here as a concrete step by the Sikhs towards confrontation with Mrs Gandhi's federal rule.

"It is a little early to say which course the agitation will take, but there seems little doubt that political foes of Mrs Gandhi and the militant Sikh leaders will utilise the opportunity to create problems for her," an independent observer said.

Punjab's problems started in the pre-independence days when the Indian national congress and the Akali Dal forged a united front against the Muslim League, and in 1946 the Sikhs rejected a Muslim League offer of a sovereign Sikh state linked on advantageous terms with Pakistan. Instead the Sikhs accepted a "solemn undertaking" by congress promising a "set-up in north India wherein the Sikhs can also experience the glow of freedom."

Newspaper surveys have shown that the majority of Sikhs do not favour a separate homeland and breaking away from India.

Many of Sikhs have migrated to 21 other Indian states, and they have set up businesses which they often cannot afford to abandon, although they want more power and less interference by the federal administration.

"They are caught in a most unusual schizophrenia. They are too aware of their economic strength, but they also suffer from a precaution complex -- that the government in New Delhi does not want them to assert their identity on the national scheme," an observer said.

NEW PROJECT FOR PRODUCING PLUTONIUM LAUNCHED

BK151320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] The Department of Atomic Energy has launched a new project for producing plutonium fuel. It envisages development of a process to produce plutonium-bearing nuclear fuel for thermal and fast breeder reactors.

The department's annual report for 1981-82 says the atomic reactors operating in the country today use either enriched uranium or natural uranium as fuel. Plutonium is the fuel proposed for the next generation of nuclear plants in the country.

The report says initial studies on the fifth atomic power project at Kakrapar in Gujarat have begun. Ninety percent of the work on the fast breeder test reactor at Kalpakam has been completed. It adds that more heavy-water plants are to be set up in the current period starting with one at Thal-Waishet at Maharashtra. It will have a capacity of 200 tons.

BRIEFS

CULTURAL ACCORD WITH HUNGARY -- India and Hungary signed in New Delhi on 14 April a new cultural agreement between them. The agreement, valid for the next 3 years, envisages strengthening mutual relations between the two countries through cooperation in the fields of art and culture, education and science, including medical and agricultural sciences. In the field of sports, the program stipulates promotion of direct contacts between the national sports organizations of the two countries. [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Apr 82 BK]

CRUDE PRODUCTION -- The production of crude from the onshore and offshore oilfields in the country up to the end of February reached an all-time high of 14.52 million tons. This marked an increase of about 57 percent over the production of 9.25 million tons in the corresponding period last year. According to an official release of the Petroleum Ministry, the increase in oil production from the Oil and Natural Gas Commission's offshore projects was substantial -- particularly from Bombay High. It went up to 59.9 percent by February this year. Similarly, oilfields in the Gujarat region produced 3.15 million tons and Oil India Limited produced 2.7 million tons. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 19 Mar 82 BK]

EXECUTION OF AS-SADAT ASSASSINS CONDEMNED

GF160823 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Apr 82

["Text" of statement issued by the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran on "the Egyptian regime's execution of a group of Egyptian believers" -- date not given] given]

[Text] At last, Husni Mubarak -- As-Sadat's fosterling -- has implemented the orders of his criminal masters, the United States and the Zionist entity. At dawn yesterday the executioners of the puppet Egyptian regime executed Capt Khalid al-Islambuli and his four colleagues who executed As-Sadat.

At a time when Palestinian Muslims are facing the Zionist enemy's aggression and are offering martyrs, the Egyptian regime, in order to please the Zionist aggressors and assure them that it will not pose a threat to them after their withdrawal from Sinai, and in order to placate the Zionist criminals and confront the Islamic uprising of the Muslim Palestinian people, carried out this abhorrent crime.

There is no doubt that the Muslim blood that was shed in Al-Aqsa Mosque and the blood of the martyr Al-Islambuli and his brothers shed by the executioners in control of Egypt will irrigate a sapling whose fruit will be the liberation of the region's Muslims from the claws of international oppression.

The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while congratulating and condoling the faternal Egyptian people and the families of the martyrs, is confident that the Egyptian people will continue the march of their martyrs by struggling against the agent regime controlling Egypt and escalating the heroic struggle of the Muslim Palestinian people.

"Faint not, nor grieve; you shall have the upper hand if you are believers." [Koranic verse]

VELAYATI MEETS WITH STEADFASTNESS FRONT ENVOYS

GF160735 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Apr 82

[Text] The ambassadors of the countries of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front held separate meetings with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati yesterday. During these meetings, the common stands of the front countries in the face of the Zionist entity and the development of relations between the front countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran were discussed.

The Steadfastness and Confrontation Front includes Syria, Libya, Algeria, the PDRY and the PLO.

IRNA REPORTS ON KHOMEYNI WOMEN'S DAY MESSAGE

LD151128 Tehran IRNA in English 0942 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] Tehran, 15 Apr (IRNA) -- The flourishing and corruption of societies all emanated from that of women, said Imam Khomeyni in his message today on the occasion of the birthday of the prophet's daughter, Zahra, (May God's peace be upon her), which is designated as Women's Day. In this message, Imam Khomeyni congratulated the Women's Day, which he said was the day of magnanimous being and who was the very foundation of human virtues and sublime values of man, who was God's vice regent on earth.

The imam further congratulated the designating of such a noble day, the birthday of Fatima Zahra, the daughter of the prophet, as Women's Day, for he said Zahra was indeed one of the history's miracles and prides.

The imam then said Zahra was a woman who brought up such human being in a small humble home, whose radiant character shone all over the universe and extended to the celestial world.

The imam stated that women were such unique beings who could bring up people to enable societies to reach sublime human values. The contrary was also true, as the defunct shah and his father perpetrated heinous crimes vis-a-vis women, with the pre-formulated designs of the world's super criminals, unprecedented in the history of Iran, the imam said. Speaking on the super criminals who regarded their survival in the captivity of nations, especially the Islamic ones, the leader of the Islamic revolution noted that they had realised, upon their infiltration into Islamic lands, that the only impediment on their exploitation and colonialism's paths, was the religious populace, the ulema, and women, who served to encourage men with their uprising to fight.

Henceforth, the imam continued, the super criminals realised that they had to undermine the religious bases of societies in order to abuse the natural resources of those countries. To this end, they enacted a series of methods of counter the three afore-mentioned factors, to corrupt women, and to turn them into beings whose raison d'etre was consumption. The imam went on to say that the previous regime committed all those crimes about women, whose missions were teaching and man-building, in the name of progress.

The majority of the deprived Iranian women opposed that status quo dictated to them by the former regime, but only a specific group succumbed to those conditions, the message added. However, the leader of the world's downtrodden people said that after the culmination of the Islamic revolution, the majority of women changed their life styles with the exception of a minority, for whose guidance and moral development the imam implored God.

Imam Khomeyni then stated that he was proud of Iranian women, who had been resisting the former regime and after its fall, the superpowers and their lackeys in such a gallant fashion that had not been recorded in any epoch. Referring to the role of the Iranian women in the Iraqi-imposed war on Iran, the imam said words and pens were all too feeble and ashamed to describe the women's unprecedented sacrifices and resistances in that war.

Imam Khomeyni recalled an Iranian girl, who had offered to marry a revolutionary guard who had lost his arms and eyes in the Iraqi-imposed war on Iran, said to the imam that since she had not paid her debt to the war fronts, the revolution, and Islam she decided to enter that marriage to compensate. He went on to say that the grandeur of such a scene could never be described by any writer.

Speaking of the young women whose husbands had been martyred Imam Khomeyni called on them to follow the tradition of God and marry. He also called on the young men, the soldiers and revolutionary guards to marry such great women. In the end, the leader of the Islamic revolution sent his greetings to women who were invaluable resisting beings and prayed for the well-being of Iran and its people.

MUSAVI MEETS WITH LAND DISTRIBUTION COUNCIL

LD142032 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the representatives of the seven-man Land Distribution Council this evening met and conferred with Mr Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister, following their 3-day seminar.

At this meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Jahantab presented a short report on the issues raised in the seminar, the status of land ownership before and after the Revolution Council's bill, and on the services rendered by the brother members of the Land Distribution Council during the past 18 months.

Mr Mir-Hoseyn Musavi congratulated them on the auspicious birthday of the great lady of Islam, Her Holiness Sediqah al-Tahirah Fatimah az-Zahra -- may God's peace be upon her -- and also on the birthday of the imam of the nation.

He gave a speech, stating: At the beginning of the revolution, America and the world oppressors pinned many hopes on two sectors -- factories and land issues. With regard to factories, from long before the revolution, many theories had been concocted by those who believed in the East or those who were Westernized, particularly by those who claimed to be Marxist but were in America's service, and they intended to raise the issue of class -- particularly the working class -- in society, and to use it against the Islamic identity of the revolution and to destroy the revolution.

The land issue was first raised in Gonbad; the issue was also raised in the Revolution Council. The oppressed martyr, Ayatollah Dr Beheshti, whose destiny is merged with the fate of this bill, started essential work in two fields. The workers' councils bill -- which we may not now consider very important as in our country in the past 3 years and at present the labor issue has been almost nonexistant -- has played a decisive role in the preservation of the Islamic revolution. Regarding land, the oppressed martyr, Ayatollah Beheshti, examined this issue at a time when he was the target of charges of being reactionary, dependent on America, being the leader of the club wielders and so forth. However, his excellency took a decisive and compassionate line in the Revolution Council in connection with the oppressed, as I witnessed.

In another part of his speech, the prime minister drew attention to the elimination of political roles in society and the creation of an atmosphere in which one can decide about principal issues and move toward implementing Islamic justice. He referred to the morale existing in executive institutions such as the Majlis, the government and other organizations and their alignment with the interests of the oppressed in society.

He said: It is natural that the issues of the Islamic revolution and the preservation of the glory of the Islamic Republic have priority over other issues, as such issues on some occasions prevent the implementation of parts of this bill. However, the original line of the revolution, which is aligned with the rule of divine values and the establishment of Islamic justice in our society, has never been nor will be diverted.

When on such a day our nation takes to the streets and chants slogans for the liberation of Jerusalem, it shows that this line is still alive and that those hearts which beat on such days as 6 September [date of first large-scale opposition to the shah] and 6 June [date of Khomeyni's open opposition to the shah] are still beating, and that this movement and life have found their way. As long as attention to Islam, unity and the defense of the world oppressed exist in our nation, no plan which is in the interest of the oppressed will be rejected.

Referring to the truth-seeking characteristic of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the prime minister said: The Majlis is the essence of this nation and we know that the main characteristic of the Majlis is its support for Islam, truth and the oppressed; it is natural that the position of the Majlis regarding land will be an Islamic one. We live in the regime of the Islamic Republic and think that any movement by us has an Islamic and religious meaning.

The Majlis will not effect the way our brothers work. If we can have an effect on the spring sowing through our work and by being present in agricultural fields, we must certainly do so.

I am sure that with the raising of the bill in the Majlis, the deputies will have a clear picture of the situation. There is a relatively good understanding in the Cabinet of the great work carried out by the seven-man council. It is natural for the government to have this revolutionary institution.

REZA'I INTERVIEWED ON RECENT VICTORIES

LD152030 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] Tehran, 15 Apr (IRNA) -- Commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Reza'i, in an interview with IRNA in Qom on Thursday commenting on the recent victories of the Islamic Republic forces on the warfronts, said that superpowers with their deceitful activities were trying to tell other countries that it was their armaments which gained these victories. However, he added, it was merely the faith of the Iranian combatants which made such a triumph possible.

Continuing on the same subject he pointed out that the recent victories over the Iraqi Ba'thist forces had left such an immense effect in the region that Reagan immediately after the victories announced that continuation of the war would not be in the interests of the United States. "We take this despair of the U.S. President as a good omen, Reza'i said.

Referring to the recent trips of the peace delegation to Iran and conditions for peace, he said as Iran did not accept an imposed war, it would not accept an imposed peace, when the conditions for peace were put forward by the Islamic Republic of Iran was in a weaker position. [sentence as received] However, the IRGC commander stressed, Iran had no expansionist intentions and with respect to the guidelines of Imam Khomeyni, Iran would suffice to the same just conditions for the establishment of a just peace which would be both in the interests of the Iranians and the oppressed. When the enemy was forced to pay such an amount of war reparations and be tried by the whole world, this would be the victory of the oppressed and no country would dare to attack the oppressed, and if anyone thought of aggression he would then know that he would be tried and would have to pay reparations, Reza'i said. Therefore, he stressed, Iran would continue the war till the enemy accepted a just peace and the world realized that the aggressor must be put on trial.

Commenting on the effects of the presence of the popular forces in the battlefields, Reza'i said that these forces were one of the reasons for the victories achieved and that they had been organized in brigades, battalions and other units. He further emphasized that forces of Saddam could not resist spiritual values and high morale of the Iranian forces.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 855

LD151930 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Communique 855 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The revolutionary Muslim nation of Iran is hereby informed of the outcome of the battle and operations carried out by the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the last 24 hours.

Yesterday battle continued throughout the southern fronts with exchanges of fire between the mighty forces of Islam and the Saddamist forces. In the exchange of fire on the Abadan front, our gendarmerie combatants fired on enemy positions, destroying several trenches, light and heavy weapons and observation posts of the Iraqi forces and killing or wounding 10 of their servicemen.

They also impeded enemy vehicle traffic in the Al-Faw region.

Our naval heroes on the Khorramshahr front opened retaliatory fire on enemy positions and units, inflicting losses and casualties on the Saddamist forces. Yesterday the Saddamist mercenaries again opened artillery fire on some residential areas of Abadan; as a result, several of our dear compatriots in Abadan were martyred or wounded.

Yesterday fighting and sporadic exchanges of fire continued on the Salehabad, Sumar, Gilan-e Gharb and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab fronts, and our self-sacrificing combatants from the ground forces silenced the fire of the Iraqi forces, killed or wounded several of their servicemen on every front, and destroyed an appreciable number of the Saddamists' positions and supply points. In Gilan-e Gharb, they also destroyed one of their tanks and one of their trucks.

On the Marivan front, as a result of the heavy-artillery fire by our ground forces on enemy positions in the Bani Banuk and Kan-e Shiran regions, many positions of the servicemen, weapons and several ammunition dumps and one 50-mm heavy machinegun of the Iraqi forces were utterly destroyed.

In the (Hargineh), Khanom-e Sheykhan, (Kan-e Garmaleh) and Khurmal regions, relatively heavy losses and casualties were inflicted on the enemy to such an extent that one personnel carrier, several servicemen, assembly points and three ammunition dumps of the Saddamist forces were set on fire and destroyed.

During the exchanges of fire on the western fronts, our gendarmerie returned enemy fire, inflicting losses and casualties on the Iraqi forces and, according to a report by the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the clashes and exchanges of fire on the Shur-e Shirin and Band-e Kabud regions were more extensive than those on other fronts.

The air defense units of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces yesterday frustrated every air attack by the forces of the aggressive Iraqi Army and repulsed the raiding Iraqi aircraft.

IRAQI FIELD COMMUNICATION SYSTEM CAPTURED

LD152032 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] A well-equipped radio communication system has been captured from the Ba'thist aggressors. According to a dispatch by an IRNA correspondent, following the defeat suffered by the aggressive Ba'thist Iraqi Army in the great Fath operations and the rout suffered by the enemy, the forces of Islam, while mopping up the liberated heights, discovered and moved behind the front an immense communication system left behind by the enemy.

According to this report, the communication system is capable of simultaneously establishing communication among units of four divisions. The cost of this immense communications system has been estimated to be at least 200 million rials.

Meanwhile, despite the passage of some 25 days since the successful Fath operations, the burial of the bodies of the Ba'thist aggressors killed by the forces of Islam still continues. According to this report, on the (Barqaziyeh) and (Sheykh Tandi) axis alone in the last 48 hours nearly another 80 bodies of the Saddamist aggressors were buried by the forces of Islam in accordance with Muslim rites.

Also, during mopping-up operations in these regions further quantities of ammunition belonging to the Ba'thist aggressors were taken as booty and were transferred behind the lines.

SUCCESSES AGAINST INSURGENTS IN WEST DETAILED

LD152042 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Statement issued by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Public Relations Office]

[Excerpt] Yesterday, Islam's combatants, including personnel of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces, forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, Mobilization and Kurdish peshmerga combatants, succeeded in completely eliminating the insurgents and the counterrevolutionaries linked to the world oppressors in several places on the Baneh-Sar Dasht and Mahabad-Sar Dasht axes.

The insurgents and counterrevolutionaries were forced to retreat several kilometers from the said axes. During these operations, in which 4 counterrevolutionary headquarters were set on fire and destroyed, at least 60 insurgents, including their leader, were killed and a further 40 insurgents were wounded. As a result of these operations [words indistinct] heights were mopped up and a number of armed counterrevolutionaries were arrested.

The forces of Islam also mopped up villages in [words indistinct]. During these operations a number of counterrevolutionaries were killed and the rest were forced to flee.

Later on in these operations, the forces of Islam were engaged in a series of clashes with the counterrevolutionaries in the village [word indistinct] under the jurisdiction of Sanandaj. Fifteen counterrevolutionaries were killed or injured and one was arrested.

Also, in the course of a number of operations in the vicinity of Bukan axis, a headquarters belonging to the outlawed Democratic Party was destroyed and a number of armed counter-revolutionaries were either killed or wounded. In the coure of follow-up operations, three villages in [word indistinct] and upper (Safyan) and lower (Safyan) were mopped up. During the said operations, a large quantity of light and heavy weapons, including a jeep with a 106-mm cannon and 3 vehicles, were destroyed and some arms and ammunition were seized.

RASHT IMAM WOUNDED IN MOSQUE EXPLOSION

LD152012 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, as a result of a bomb explosion in Rasht's Kasehfurushan Mosque, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ehsanbakhsh, the city's Friday imam, and seven worshipers in the mosque were wounded. Hojjat ol-Eslam Ehsanbakhsh was taken to Tehran for treatment.

MOJAHEDIN CLAIM 13,000 EXECUTED IN 9 MONTHS

NC142116 Paris AFP in English 2024 GMT 14 Apr 82

[Excerpt] Paris, 14 Apr (AFP) -- Thirteen thousand people have been executed in Iran in the last nine months, according to the Paris bureau of the People's Mojahedin, the major opposition group to the Tehran regime.

The bureau said that 800 people were executed between February 1 and 11, 100 on a single day, and that a large number of children and young people were among the executed.

These figures, according to the bureau, were given by political detainees who succeeded in smuggling messages out of their prisons.

MAJLIS ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL-MAY

LD101950 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Apr 82

[Excerpt] According to the Central News Unit, Minister of Interior 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri participated in an interview today. Among other things, he said that preparations have been made for the mid-term elections to the Islamic Majlis. These elections will be held from 21 April to 21 May.

ETTELA'AT REPORTS NEW GOVERNOR OF TEHRAN

GF161045 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 9 Apr 82 p 2

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri, the minister of interior, appointed 'Ali Asghar Samet as the governor of Tehran yesterday.